

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE GOVERNING BOARD  
SCOTTSDALE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 48**

March 3, 2009

A Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of the Scottsdale Unified School District, #48, Maricopa County, was called to order at 5:37 PM, at the Scottsdale Unified School District Education Center Board Room, 3811 North 44<sup>th</sup> Street, Phoenix, Arizona. President Beckvar called upon Mrs. Sneed to lead the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Members in attendance were Karen Beckvar, President; Dr. Eric Meyer, Clerk; Jennifer Petersen; Dieter Schaefer; and Bonnie Sneed. Co-Interim Superintendents Katy Cavanagh and David Peterson were also present. A quorum was present. Ms. Beckvar welcomed approximately 150 visitors.

Ms. Beckvar noted two corrections to the Agenda:

1. The Minutes of February 10, 2009 Regular Board Meeting, Page 2, under Revision of Board Policies – Sections A and B – for Policy BEDBA, should read:  
***“Superintendent will prepare the Agenda in ~~coordination~~ consultation with the Board President.”***
2. Action Item IX. A – Approval of Superintendent's Employment Contract, should read:  
.....commencing on ~~April 4~~ **April 2**, 2009.

Mrs. Petersen moved to approve the Agenda, as corrected. Mrs. Sneed seconded the motion.

The motion was approved with a vote of 5 – 0.

Superintendents' Comments

Dr. Peterson noted that the NE Valley Meth coalition is holding its final event of the year, Healthy Families Rock, at Mountainside Middle School on April 4<sup>th</sup>. The program promotes wellness and staying drug-free.

Dr. Peterson recognized some of the District's athletic accomplishments. Coronado High School had a state champion in Division II, Wrestling 4A, Richard Breese. Chaparral High School Boys' Soccer team was runner up in the state. Desert Mountain High School also had a state champion in Wrestling 5A, Shane McGough. Saguaro High School's wrestling team was runner up in this year's 4A state championship.

Dr. Peterson also recognized the accomplishment of some of the District's vocational education students. EVIT (East Valley Institute of Technology) had a competition called the Arizona High School Pit Crew Challenge. Crews of five students each attended the NHRA (National Hot Rod Association) weekend. Two of the five members of the winning team are SUSD students; Joe Gomez from Coronado, and Dan Cesarzy from Arcadia.

Mrs. Cavanagh continued with recognition of the new principal for Sequoya Elementary School, Neela Bhavnani. Mrs. Cavanagh also recognized Michael Helminski, principal of Kiva Elementary School for the past 12 years. Mr. Helminski is retiring at the end of this school year. Also recognized were two SUSD long-time employees, Nancy Creighton-Brown and Suzanne Armstrong, who have been working with the Career Ladder program for many years.

Public Comment

Suanne Rudley spoke in support of the International Baccalaureate program at Desert Mountain High School.

Patricia Faiveley spoke in opposition to funding the Galileo assessment program.

Vicki Mack Meadows spoke in opposition to any funding cuts in elementary music programs.

Joy Glaab spoke in opposition to any funding cuts in orchestra and band programs.

Bmanda Cami spoke in opposition to any funding cuts in orchestra and band programs.

Sally Dubensky spoke in opposition to any funding cuts in orchestra and band programs.

Corrections to Agenda

Motion #130  
Approval of Agenda as corrected

Superintendents' Comments

Public Comment

Casey Rabe spoke in opposition to any funding cuts in orchestra and band programs.

Nala Bates spoke in opposition to any funding cuts in the arts program.

Douglas Brauer spoke in opposition to RIF of first and second year teachers, suggesting instead that the Board cut under-performing teachers.

Claudia Goad spoke in opposition to any funding cuts in any music programs.

Mary Lou Muccino and Anne-Marie Woolsey read a statement on behalf of the Scottsdale Affiliated Administrators (SAA) that expressed concern over proposed budget cuts at all school sites.

Carol Matthusen spoke in opposition to any funding cuts in fine arts and special programs.

Rachel Mazzulo spoke in opposition to any funding cuts in band and strings programs.

Kathryn VanHuisstede spoke in opposition to any cuts to the IB program.

Polly Olson spoke in opposition to any cuts to the IB program.

Christine Roadifer, president of the Scottsdale Parent Council, spoke in opposition to any RIF of instructional leaders and asked the Board to keep all decisions to cut the budget away from children.

Sammy Brauer spoke in opposition to any cuts to the music programs and stated that teacher layoffs should be the last thing to be considered.

Anne Hanson, vice president of the SEA, spoke in regard to classroom environment and the opportunity for students to enjoy learning.

Eric Kurland, president of the SEA, spoke in recognition of the challenges SUSD faces due to proposed cuts from state legislators, stating that cuts should be far away from the classroom.

Patrick Hallinan spoke in regard to the funds provided by the K-3 Override and said that class sizes should stay the same.

Amanda Wilber shared the response she received from a letter written to her legislator and asked the Board to help her to educate legislators.

Florence Richardson spoke in support of the IB program.

#### Consent Agenda

VII. A. Acceptance of Gifts - \$39,731.45

VII. B. Accounts Payable Vouchers – 2/2/09-2/19/09

VII. C. Payroll Vouchers – 1/31/09-2/19/09

VII. D. Personnel Actions – 1/31/09-2/19/09

VII. E. Approval of Minutes of February 6 & 7, 2009 Special Board Meeting

VII. F. Approval of Minutes of February 10, 2009 Special Board Meeting

VII. G. Approval of Minutes of February 10, 2009 Regular Board Meeting – **corrected**

VII. H. Approval of Minutes of February 13, 2009 Special Board Meeting

VII. I. Approval of Minutes of February 18, 2009 Special Board Meeting

VII. J. Approval of Minutes of February 20, 2009 Special Board Meeting

VII. K. Action of Hearing Officer's Recommendation

VII. L. Auxiliary Operations Statement for January 31, 2009

VII. M. Student Activities Statement for January 31, 2009

VII. N. Tax Credit Statement for January 31, 2009

VII. O. Approval of Revision of Governing Board Policy EEAA – Walkers and Riders

VII. P. Approval of Revision to Board Policies Section B – Governance and Operations (BBAA, BBBA, BBBB, BBBC, BBBE, BDF, BDH, BEDB, BEDBA, BID)

VII. O. Approval to Increase Prior Board Authorization for USDA Donated Foods through Arizona Department of Education

Consent Agenda

Mrs. Petersen moved to approve the Consent Agenda as corrected. Dr. Meyer seconded the motion.

The motion was approved with a vote of 5 – 0.

Information/Discussion Items

Dr. Peterson presented Information/Discussion Item VIII. A. Impact of State Legislative Budget Cuts, SUSD Budget. A PowerPoint presentation was given that reviewed a worst-case scenario of the FY2010 legislative budget cuts on SUSD's budget, resulting in a \$21 million deficit. Dr. Peterson reviewed recommended budget savings by Administrators, departments, classified and certified. A proposed Reduction in Force (RIF) was reviewed. Also reviewed were income generating activities from Facility Rentals, Community Schools, Grants (Indirect), and Nutritional Services. Dr. Peterson noted that the District will be re-enrolling with Blue Cross/Blue Shield for its employees' medical benefits, and by joining other valley districts, will be able to offer an 80/20 plan once again. Also reviewed were the K-3 Override Impact, High School Pay for Play and a list of Administrative recommended budget priorities should the state legislative budget cuts be less than projected.

A discussion ensued regarding the challenges presented to school districts by the state with all agreeing that the classroom should be the last to be affected by any possible cuts in the budget.

Jeff Thomas, Executive Director for Human Capital, presented Information/Discussion Item VIII. B. Update on Certified Staffing and Reduction in Force (RIF) for FY2009-2010. A PowerPoint presentation was given of a general update on staffing based on the current environment. The staffing levels reviewed were aligned with the current TEA (Teachers' Employment Agreement). As of the date of the meeting, March 3, 2009, 221 certified positions were identified for RIF. It is hoped that number will continue to drop. The recall process was reviewed. State statute requires districts to recall certified workers by seniority.

Board Members expressed their dismay with the position that state legislators put school districts in, forcing them to lay off first and second year teachers, thereby wasting the dollars spent in training those teachers.

Action Items

Ms. Beckvar presented Action Item IX. A. Approval of Superintendent's Employment Contract. As noted at the beginning of the meeting, Dr. Catalani's contract will commence April 2, 2009.

Mrs. Petersen stated that, for the record, she supported Dr. Catalani's appointment, he being her first choice. However, she did not agree with certain portions of the contract.

Mr. Schaefer moved to approve the Superintendent's Employment Contract with Dr. Catalani commencing April 2, 2009. Mrs. Sneed seconded the motion.

The motion was approved with a vote of 4 – 1 (Mrs. Petersen voted NAY).

Dr. Catalani, who was present at the meeting, thanked the Board Members for their support and stated that given everything heard at the meeting, SUSD can come out of this crisis a better school district.

Dr. Peterson presented Action Item IX. B. Revision #3 of the 2008-2009 Annual Budget. A PowerPoint presentation was given reviewing the SUSD budget revision made due to mandated funding reductions. SUSD's reductions pursuant to this mandate equal \$2.8 million to the Base Support Level and \$593,884 to Soft Capital, a total of \$3,440,239. Dr. Peterson noted that the Legislature has removed the requirement that Soft Capital Funds are restricted to capital purchases. SUSD plans to use Soft Capital Funds to complete the 2009 fiscal year without cuts to the operating budget. Further, all remaining 2008-09 purchases in Soft Capital for the current fiscal year have been suspended. That includes library materials, contracted land and building, instructional aides and textbooks.

Mrs. Petersen moved to approve Revision #3 of the 2008-09 Annual Expenditure Budget, as presented to the Governing Board. The Arizona State Legislature has mandated specific cuts to Arizona School Districts. The reductions mandated for Scottsdale Unified School District total \$3,440,239 and include reducing its Base Level Support by \$2,846,356 and a reduction of \$593,884 to Soft Capital. Mrs. Sneed seconded the motion.

Motion #131  
Approval of Consent  
Agenda as Corrected

Information/Discussion  
•Impact of State  
Legislative Budget Cuts,  
SUSD Budget

•Update on Certified  
Staffing and RIF for  
FY2009-2010

Action Items  
•Approval of Supt's  
Employment Contract

Motion #132  
Approval of Supt's  
Employment contract

•Revision #3 of the  
2008-09 Annual Budget

Motion #133  
Approval of Revision #3  
of the 2008-09 Annual  
Expenditure Budget

The motion was approved with a vote of 5 – 0.

Future Action

There were no Future Action items requested by Board Members.

Governing Board Reports

Mrs. Sneed thanked the members of the Superintendent Search Committee for their participation. She also thanked all the people who have attended rallies at the Capital and those who have taken the time to contact their legislators and the Governor. Mrs. Sneed thanked all those who have provided budget ideas to the District's Website.

Ms. Beckvar echoed Mrs. Sneed's statements and added her thank you.

Dates of Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday, March 24, 2009 – 5:30 PM – Regular Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 7, 2009 – 5:30 PM – Regular Board Meeting

At 8:30 PM, Mr. Schaefer moved to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Petersen seconded the motion.

The motion was approved with a vote of 5 – 0.

Dated this      day of              2009.

**The Governing Board of the Scottsdale Unified School District #48**

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Karen Beckvar, President

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Eric Meyer, Clerk

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Jennifer Petersen

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Dieter Schaefer

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Bonnie Sneed

Future Action  
None

Governing Board Reports

Dates of Upcoming Meetings

Motion #134  
Adjournment